Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 03449 221413Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 INSE-00 IO-13 L-03
VO-05 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 /060 W
----------074130 222210Z /13
R 211929Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9358
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 3449

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, HA
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: HAITI

REF: A. LONDON 12935, B. STATE 210007

1. AS FOOTNOTE TO DEPARTMENT'S EXCELLENT CABLE (REF B), LONDON MAY BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LETTER.

2. POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ARRESTS. WE KNOW OF NO BASIS FOR THE CHARGE THAT THE GOH CONTINUES TO CARRY OUT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED ARRESTS. ARBITRARY ARRESTS FOR POLITICAL REASONS VIRTUALLY CEASED WITH THE INAUGURATION OF RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN 1976-1977. NEITHER THE MILITARY (AT LEAST THOSE WHO ARE NOT IN A POLICE FUNCTION SUCH AS THE PORT AU PRINCE POLICE) NOR THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL SERVICE (WHICH INCLUDES REMNANTS OF THE OLD TIME TON TON MACOUTES) HAVE ARREST POWERS PER SE, BUT THEY ARE AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP PEOPLE AND TURN THEM OVER TO THE CHEFS DE SECTION IN THE RURAL AREAS AND THE POLICE IN URBAN AREAS, AND THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO DO SO FOR NON-POLITICAL MATTERS. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, THOSE ARRESTED, PARTICULARLY MINOR MALEFACTORS, WERE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO LENGTHY DETENTION. IN JULY, IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGING THIS
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DEFECT, GOH PUBLICIZED ITS DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 17 OF CONSTITUTION REQUIRING ALL DETAINEES TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE A JUDGE 48 HOURS AFTER THEIR DETENTION IN ORDER TO EVALUATE VALIDITY OF CHARGES AGAINST THEM. THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL SYSTEM, BUT GOH IS MOVING, SLOWLY, TOWARD ITS AMELIORATION.
MEADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ARRESTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTA03449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780343-0922
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780842/aaaabiul.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93d15160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Reference: 78 LONDON 12935, 78 STATE 210007
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: HAITI
TAGS: SHUM, HA, AI
To: STATE
Type: TE
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